

Notice: New Statute

Senate Bill 953, Ch. 541, Statutes of 2002

On September 13, 2002, Governor Davis signed Senate Bill 953 which was authored by Senator John Vasconcellos. This bill, which added sections 2915.5 and 2915.7 to the California Business and Professions Code, became operative January 1, 2003.

Significantly, this new law requires any applicant for licensure as a psychologist who begins graduate study on or after January 1, 2004, to complete a minimum of ten contact hours of coursework in aging and long-term care in the biological, social, and psychological aspects of aging. Applicants who have not submitted proof of completion of this coursework cannot be issued a license.

Additionally, this new law requires that, on or after January 1, 2005, all licensed psychologists who are renewing their licenses must either provide proof of completion of a three-hour continuing education course in aging and long-term care or, alternatively, show proof of its equivalent in teaching or practicing experience. This is a one-time renewal requirement. Licensees will not receive their renewed license until the board receives satisfactory proof of completion of this requirement.

The language of the new law can be accessed at www.leginfo.ca.gov.